

Matthew Sheridan Recipient of \$25,000 Manning Innovation Award

SASKATOON, SK – October 1, 2015 – Matthew Sheridan, inventor of the Nix Colour Sensor, has been named as the winner of the 2015 Ernest C. Manning Foundation’s Award of Distinction. The David E. Mitchell Award of Distinction is one of several prizes given annually to talented Canadian innovators who are improving the lives of Canadians and others worldwide through their commercialized inventions. He will receive \$25,000 from the Foundation, and joins a network of nationally recognized innovators.

“It’s a huge honour to be receiving the Ernest C. Manning Foundation’s Award of Distinction,” said Mr. Sheridan, Founder & CEO of Nix Sensor Ltd. (Nix) *“I’m very proud to be able to represent Hamilton on a national stage at this year’s awards gala. We’ve been offered opportunities to move to California and other places, but we are energized and inspired by the incredible amount of talent in Hamilton, and organizations like Innovation Factory. Without them, we wouldn’t be here today.”*

The Nix Colour Sensor is a handheld device that can measure the colour of any surface and provide that information to the user’s smartphone via Bluetooth. Unlike current solutions, such as colour fan decks and smartphone apps, the Nix Colour Sensor’s patented design blocks out all ambient light and provides a calibrated light source to provide an industry-leading level of accuracy.

The Nix Colour Sensor was launched as one of the first official Canadian Kickstarter projects, where it raised \$70,000 – double the original goal. Since then, Nix has quickly found traction as a low-cost, high-quality colour measurement solution provider in the Paint, Food & Agriculture, Printing, and Textiles sectors.

“The Foundation is helping to build a culture of innovation by recognizing Canadian innovators,” says Jennifer Diakiw, President of the Foundation. *“Our awards reward innovators for the value they are adding to our provincial and national economies by creating jobs and wealth, and positioning our country as a global competitor. We consider them Canada’s most valuable resource.”*

Nix Sensor Ltd. is based in Hamilton’s McMaster Innovation Park, and is a member of several Regional Innovation Centres and industry networks, including Innovation Factory (Hamilton), Communitech (Kitchener-Waterloo), and the Ontario Centres of Excellence. All of Nix’s sensors are assembled and calibrated at their facilities in Hamilton.

The team of McMaster University Engineering alumni, led by Mr. Sheridan, are already managing projects for a portfolio of clients throughout Europe and North America, and are expanding their operations in order to meet the complex needs of colour-dependent industries.

“The Nix team has built a solid reputation as a technology leader not only in Hamilton but with their global clients as well,” said David Carter, Executive Director of Innovation Factory, located in McMaster Innovation Park. *“We’re thrilled to be working with Matt and the entire Nix team, and I couldn’t think of a better entrepreneur to receive this award and represent the innovation we’re seeing come out of the Hamilton region.”*

In February 2015, Nix released the second version of their hardware, the Nix Pro, which features completely redesigned hardware and software. In addition to their success in developing custom solutions for industry, Nix has made consumer versions of the Nix Pro available for order at www.nixsensor.com.

About the Earnest C. Manning Award Foundation:

The Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation was established in 1980 by Alberta Energy Company CEO David Mitchell. Working with former Alberta premier Ernest C. Manning and others, he built the foundation to recognize and celebrate Canadian innovators of all ages and across all disciplines. Since then, the Foundation has built a national network of 3,000 young and adult innovators who are leaders in technology, business, engineering, and social innovation advancement. It has awarded innovation prizes to 255 Canadians who have demonstrated innovative talent in developing and successfully marketing a new concept, process or procedure.